

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line, please insert as a separate paragraph:

This application is the US national phase of international application
PCT/IB00/02253 filed 28 November 2001, which designated the US.

IN THE CLAIMS

6. A modulator according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein said predetermined time is ranging from about 0.1 seconds to about 30 seconds.

7. A modulator according to ~~one of claims 4, 5 or 6~~, wherein said cycle time is the sum of the predetermined times of all valves.

8. A modulator according to ~~one of the claims 2 to 7~~, wherein said cycle time is ranging from about 0.1 seconds to about 30 seconds.

9. A modulator according to ~~one of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein each said nozzles has an opening in the form of a slit parallel to said capillary length.

11. A modulator according to ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein each said nozzle is formed by a set of capillaries aligned in parallel to said capillary column length.

14. A modulator according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ 1, wherein said nozzle(s) is(are) inserted in a metal socket.

16. A modulator according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ 1, wherein said column length is mounted in stretched conditions.

17. Use of a modulator according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 15~~ for modulating the solute fractions issued by a first chromatographic column and to be fed to a second chromatographic column in a comprehensive two dimensional gas chromatographic system.

18. Use of a modulator according to ~~one of the claims 1 or 2 and 8 to 16~~ for modulating the injected fractions immediately downstream the injector in a gas chromatographic system.

19. Use of a modulator according to ~~one of the claims 1 or 2 and 8 to 6~~, for modulating the eluting fractions from a gas chromatographic column immediately upstream the detector of a gas chromatographic system.